

Advisory Committee on Trees – April 28, 2020

Call to order 7 PM via Zoom

Present: Brian Townsend (Assistant Director Public Works and Parks and ACT staff liaison), Charles Jackman (ACT chair), Bob Trumbule (member), cat Pinto Trumbule (guest), Ethel Dutky (recorder), Alvin Wilson (Ethel's technical advisor), cat Honey Wilson (guest)

Reviewed and approved Feb 18, 2020 minutes with corrections.

Old Business

1 – Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Tree.

ACT members Charles Jackman and Ethel Dutky and liaison Brian Townsend attended the City Council meeting on March 10, 2020 where City Council discussed the ACT proposal to replace the dead ERMT with an American Holly and locate the new ERMT in the park near the Community Center and Library. City Council approved the proposal. We intended to plant the tree as part of the City Arbor Day celebration on April 4.

Due to the Corona virus Medical Emergency all group activities were canceled for all of March and April, and into May until lifted. Thus Arbor Day and Earth Day events were canceled. Public Works has planted the Holly Tree. We hope restriction on public gatherings will be lifted by the fall. October 11 is Eleanor Roosevelt's birthday, so we would like to have a public dedication of the tree sometime close to October 11. The girl scouts, the Greenbelt Museum and possibly Mr. Jim Giese (former City Manager) would be invited to participate.

There was a nice plaque installed at the now dead Ash tree on Crescent Road. We reviewed the wording of the plaque and would like to install it at the replacement tree, with a small plaque that explains that the Holly is the replacement for the Ash that died, and re-dedicating the Holly as a memorial to Mrs. Roosevelt.

2 – Request a Proclamation for Arbor Day 2020.

At the City Council meeting on April 27, 2020, a proclamation was presented for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. All ACT members would like for City Council to also do the usual proclamation for Arbor Day, even though the current Medical Emergency prevents a public activity. Charles will prepare a letter to City Council requesting that Arbor Day be recognized this year on the same day selected for Earth Day.

Brian mentioned that Public Works still has a number of trees that were bought for this year's Arbor Day. In addition, the planting of the PEPCO replacement trees is on hold during the Medical Emergency.

New Business

1 – Replacement for some trees planted in 2019 for Arbor Day.

Brian shared that an accident destroyed several of the trees planted on 2019 Arbor Day. A car went out of control and ran over the trees. Perhaps some of the trees bought for 2020 Arbor Day could be used to replace these trees.

Next ACT meeting

In the event that restriction still apply through May, we will meet via Zoom on May19 at 7PM.

Adjourn 8PM.Submitted by Ethel Dutky